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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 748

natural gas on the...to...specifically to Nebraska municipalities, Nebraska power, and compete with those private industries, private businesses that are wholesaling that product now. And a little later I'll offer an amendment to strike Section 5 from the bill, not to try and hurt the bill. I'd like to hear everything discussed and brought together, but I do have that concern. With that, Mr. President, I'd like to yield my time to Senator Beutler to discuss with Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Mines, thank you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...very much. Senator Bourne, I want to go back to some of the distinctions that we're talking about here and maybe go back to them in light of Senator Landis' remarks with regard to duplicating services, double piping, that sort of thing. Let's talk about system takeovers first, as opposed to annexation. Your bill would allow for the...for a city to take over its private system and make it public, should they so choose. Is that right?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: That's correct, Senator Beutler. If a city wanted to take over the provider that's providing gas and become a municipally owned provided gas company, they could do that under LB 748.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR BOURNE: Now, they would have to pay. There's a...in statute already, there is a, of course, a series of statutes that would establish the value, so it's not like they're just taking it. You know, they are paying for the infrastructure.

SENATOR BEUTLER: All right. So, at least as far as takeover is concerned, there's no duplication of services. You're actually buying out the existing infrastructure. Is that right?

SENATOR BOURNE: That's correct. And are you going to ask some